

**I. Amendments of the claims**

This listing of claims shall replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1-4. (canceled)

5. (currently amended): A transgenic plant transformed with a DNA that encodes a protein consisting of the amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 8, operably linked downstream of a stress responsive promoter comprising a DRE region(s);

said stress responsive promoter selected from the group consisting of rd29A gene promoter, rd17 gene promoter, cor6.6 gene promoter, cor15a gene promoter, and kin1 gene promoter;

wherein said transgenic plant exhibits improved tolerance to dehydration, low temperature or salt, as compared to a wild type plant, and is free from dwarfing.

6. (currently amended): A transgenic plant transformed with a DNA comprising the nucleotide sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 7, operably linked downstream of a stress responsive promoter comprising a DRE region(s);

said stress responsive promoter selected from the group consisting of rd29A gene promoter, rd17 gene promoter, cor6.6 gene promoter, cor15a gene promoter, and kin1 gene promoter;

wherein said transgenic plant exhibits improved tolerance to dehydration, low temperature or salt, as compared to a wild type plant, and is free from dwarfing.

7. (currently amended): A transgenic plant transformed with a DNA that encodes a protein consisting of the amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 8, operably linked downstream of a stress responsive promoter comprising a DRE region(s) to which said protein can bind;

said stress responsive promoter selected from the group consisting of rd29A gene promoter, rd17 gene promoter, cor6.6 gene promoter, cor15a gene promoter, and kin1 gene promoter;

wherein said transgenic plant exhibits improved tolerance to dehydration, low temperature or salt, as compared to a wild type plant, and is free from dwarfing.

8. (currently amended) A transgenic plant transformed with a DNA, that encodes a protein, comprising the nucleotide sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 7 operably linked downstream of a stress responsive promoter comprising a DRE region(s) to which said protein can bind;

said stress responsive promoter selected from the group consisting of rd29A gene promoter, rd17 gene promoter, cor6.6 gene promoter, cor15a gene promoter, and kin1 gene promoter;

wherein said transgenic plant exhibits improved tolerance to dehydration, low temperature or salt, as compared to a wild type plant, and is free from dwarfing.

9. (currently amended): The transgenic plant of claim 5, wherein the stress responsive promoter is ~~comprises at least one promoter selected from the group consisting of rd29A gene promoter, rd17 gene promoter, cor6.6 gene promoter, cor15a gene promoter, and kin1 gene promoter.~~

10. (currently amended): The transgenic plant of claim 6, wherein the stress responsive promoter is ~~comprises at least one promoter selected from the group consisting of rd29A gene promoter, rd17 gene promoter, cor6.6 gene promoter, cor15a gene promoter, and kin1 gene promoter.~~

11. (currently amended): The transgenic plant of claim 7, wherein the stress responsive promoter is ~~comprises at least one promoter selected from the group consisting of rd29A gene promoter, rd17 gene promoter, cor6.6 gene promoter, cor15a gene promoter, and kin1 gene promoter.~~

12. (currently amended): The transgenic plant of claim 8, wherein the stress responsive promoter is ~~comprises at least one promoter selected from the group consisting of rd29A gene promoter, rd17 gene promoter, cor6.6 gene promoter, cor15a gene promoter, and kin1 gene promoter.~~